

B. Amendments to the Specification

The paragraph beginning at page 14, line 29, is amended as follows:

A1
In accordance with the invention, the principle of wire grid polarizer can be extended to grooves that are completely coated with a conductor such as a metal, such as structure 210 illustrated in FIG. 18B, which may be formed by blanket deposition of metal on an ~~area~~ area that is surrounded by field areas. The extension of the principle of wire grid polarizer to a completely coated array 210 is unexpected for at least two reasons. First, the metal electrically connects the adjacent grid elements, unlike a wire grid polarizer. Second, light that would normally pass through structure 210 (polarized perpendicular to the grid elements) now has nowhere to go at the bottom, because the bottom is closed by layer 231. Note that it is possible to employ the grooves of structure 210 ~~{true?}~~ as optical waveguides. The perpendicular polarization direction allows light to enter the grooves, exciting ~~waaveguide~~ waveguide modes. This excitation provides the ability to selectively heat within the grooves, providing a temperature increase that is a function of the sidewall thickness, in part because the sidewalls provide a thermal impedance to heat flow out of the grooves that varies inversely with sidewall thickness. This energy sets up a temperature profile 214 as illustrated in FIG. 18B.

The paragraph beginning at page 18, line 14, is amended as follows:

A2
FIG. 22 shows one implementation of a measurement apparatus in accordance with the invention. A first laser 601 has a wavelength of 830 nm and a maximum output power of 100 mW (Spectra Diode Laboratories model 2300). Collimating lens 602 forms a four mm diameter collimated beam 603 that is linearly polarized by virtue of the laser's output characteristics. The polarization direction may be optionally rotated using half-wave plate 624 623 to align the direction relative to a pattern of lines on the wafer. Half-wave plate 624 623 may be mounted on an actuator to be placed in or out of the beam. Beam 603 is referred to as the "heating beam," and is used to heat the measured area.